

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are in the case.

The applicant has studied the Office Action dated February 17, 2004 and has made the changes believed appropriate to place the application in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-20 and 23-27 have been rejected as being anticipated (35 U.S.C. 102(e)) by Heimendinger. Claims 4, 13 and 22 have been rejected as being unpatentable (35 U.S.C. 103) over Heimendinger in view of Bloomfield. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

For example, claim 1 is directed to a method comprising, *inter alia*, "managing multiple facsimile transmission as fax jobs in multiple fax management systems; transferring the message content from the multiple fax management systems to a rendering computer; launching, with the rendering computer, at least one application program to convert the message content from the multiple fax jobs to images in a file format; ..." It is the Examiner's position that the Heimendinger reference teaches "managing multiple fax transmission fax jobs (via session object 316; transferring the message content from the management system (620) to a rendering computer (634); launching, the rendering computer, at least one application program (fax to e-mail conversion) to convert the message contest from a fax job to a file format" However, the Heimendinger reference describes the element 620 as a "session object manager" (col. 8, lines 27 et seq.) and the element 634 as a "destination object manager" (col. 9, lines 12 et seq.). The Examiner has cited no teaching or suggestion that the destination object manager 634 is a "rendering computer" separate from the "multiple fax management systems" as separately recited by claim 1. Instead, the Heimendinger reference describes and shows the destination object manager 634 and the session object manager 620 as both part of a "session object 316" (FIG. 6). In the Heimendinger reference, "objects" are defined as a "units of software" (col. 6, lines 26 et seq.) Thus, the destination object manager 634 and the session object manager 620 appear to be part of the same unit of software, that is, the session object 316.

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Moreover, the Examiner has cited no motivation for modifying the destination object manager 634 to be run on a rendering computer separate from the computer running the session object manager 620. It is noted that the Heimendinger reference states generally that:

“PFB 110 may also request that devices on computer network 122 and telephone network 124 store data and run programs. By operating PFB 110 this way as a “thin client,” storage and processing requirements of PFB 110 are reduced.

Heimendinger, col. 5, lines 39-46.

Such a general observation does not in any manner teach or suggest “transferring the message content from the multiple fax management systems to a rendering computer; launching, with the rendering computer, at least one application program to convert the message content from the multiple fax jobs to images in a file format” as required by claim 1. The deficiencies of the Heimendinger reference are not met by the Examiner’s citations to the Bloomfield reference.

It is clear from the above that the present inventions as claimed in claim 1 are not in any manner anticipated or made obvious by the Examiner’s citations to the Heimendinger and Bloomfield references, considered either alone or in combination. The remaining independent claims 10 and 19 may be distinguished in a similar fashion.

Claims 2-9 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1; claims 11-18 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 10; and claims 20-27 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 19. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is improper for the reasons given above. Moreover, these dependent claims include additional limitations, which in combination with the base and intervening claims from which they depend provide still further grounds of patentability over the cited art.

The Examiner has made various comments concerning the anticipation or obviousness of certain features of the present inventions. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant has addressed those comments directly hereinabove or the Examiner’s comments are deemed moot in view of the above response.

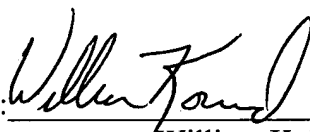
The applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 12 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, it is believed that claims 12 and 21 are in condition for allowance as originally filed as set forth above.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-27 are patentable over the art of record. Applicant has not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7970 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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